Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A method of measuring a value relating to water absorption ability of a porous cell structure having porous partition walls separating gas-flow cells, for use in setting conditions for carrying a catalyst component on the structure,

the method comprising the steps of:

(i) feeding a material in air into the porous cell structure so that the material adheres to a surface of the porous partition walls and to a surface of pores of the porous partition walls, said material being steam or hydrocarbon,

(ii) determining an amount of said material absorbed in step (i), and taking said amount as said value relating to said water absorption ability of the porous cell structure.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said material is steam, which is fed in step (i) into the porous cell structure in air for a predetermined time period, before step (ii).

30. (New) A method according to claim 29 including before step (i) measuring a dry mass of the porous cell structure and, in step (ii) measuring a mass of the cell structure following step (i) and determining said amount of said material absorbed from the mass of the cell structure following step (i) and said measured dry mass.

31. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said material is hydrocarbon, which is passed into the porous cell structure in air at one end and a time of outflow of the hydrocarbon at the other end thereof is measured, and in step (ii) the amount absorbed is calculated from this time and the amount of hydrocarbon fed into the structure per unit time.

32. (New) A method according to claim 28, further including the step of displaying, as information relating to the water absorption ability of the porous cell structure, information on a value obtained in step (ii) by marking the information on the surface of the porous cell structure, and optionally also displaying on the surface of the porous cell structure a dry mass of the porous cell structure.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein a form for displaying the information is one of characters and a bar code.

34. (New) A method according to claim 32, further comprising one of:

displaying the information in ink,

wherein displaying the information in ink is an ink jet process or a thermal transfer process;

displaying the information by laser;

displaying the information by sand blast; or

displaying the information by chemical corrosion.

35. (New) A method of loading a catalyst on a porous cell structure comprising the steps of: reading information on the value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the porous cell structure, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 32; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the porous cell structure by a wash coating process based on the read information.

36. (New) A method according to claim 33, further comprising one of:

displaying the information in ink,

wherein displaying the information in ink is an ink jet process or a thermal transfer process;

displaying the information by laser;

displaying the information by sand blast; or

displaying the information by chemical corrosion.

37. (New) A method of loading a catalyst on a porous cell structure comprising the steps of: reading information on the value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the porous cell structure, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 33; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the porous cell structure by a wash coating process based on the read information.

38. (New) A method of loading a catalyst on a porous cell structure comprising the steps of: reading information on value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the porous cell structure, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 34; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the porous cell structure by a wash coating process based on the read information.

39. (New) A method of loading a catalyst on a porous cell structure comprising the steps of: reading information on the value relating to water absorption ability, and optionally information on dry mass, displayed on the surface of the porous cell structure, said value having been measured by a method according to claim 36; and adjusting loading conditions of the catalyst onto the porous cell structure by a wash coating process based on the read information.